

Atty Dkt. No.: BLOS-001
USPN: 10/087,229

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1-20, 30, 36, and 44, as well as newly introduced Claims 61-88, the only claims pending and currently under examination in this application.

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate the element of originally filed Claim 46. Newly added Claims 61-88 find support in the originally filed Claims 21-29, 21-35, 37-43 and 46-52, which claims were canceled by previous amendment. As such, the above amendments introduce no new matter and their entry by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

The typographical error in the specification noted by the Examiner has been corrected.

An objection was raised to Claim 53. In view of the cancellation of this claim, this rejection may be withdrawn.

Claim 53 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. In view of the cancellation of Claim 53, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection may be withdrawn.

Finally, Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), over Jansen in view of Hunter. As amended, Claim 44 also requires the presence of a nucleic acid polymerase having 3'→5' exonuclease activity. As this element is not believed to be taught or suggested in the cited combination of references, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 44 is not obvious over this cited combination and that this rejection may therefore be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issuance.

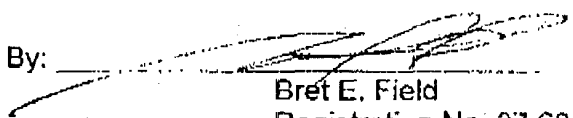
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3-26-04

By: _____


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